

Master Planning News

Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park

Peshtigo River State Forest

May, 2002 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special Interest Articles:

- December Meetings Reviewed
- Next Step
- Additional Information
- Gypsy Moth Treatment



Highlights:

Hiring Managers	2
Timeline	3
Map of WPS Land	3
Year of the Trails	4

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December Public Meetings Reviewed

The Department of Natural Resources held a series of three meetings to kick-off the master planning process for Wisconsin's newest state park...Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park located adjacent to the magnificent Caldron Falls Flowage in Marinette County. The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the property to the public, explain the upcoming planning process, and to begin a dialog with the

future visitors to the park. After the formal presentation you helped by providing us with lists of activities you want us to consider in the development of the State Park. These include: Fishing, biking, hiking, snowmobiling, ATVs, horses, camping, skiing, sledding, boating, hunting, natural shorelands, disabled access/use, friend's groups, and protection of natural, historical, and geological resources of the park.

This is a lengthy list, but it will give us much to discuss over the next several months. In our *Next Steps* section, we'll tell you about the upcoming process of creating a vision statement for both the park and the forest's master plans. Your continued assistance is critical to making these plans the best they can be.



Fox Valley Tech Survey Class Provides Valuable Mapping Service

Thirty-three students and instructors from the Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, braved rain, mud and wet conditions to collect GPS and topographic data on the newly acquired Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park.

This data will be used by the class to compile an accurate map showing the boundaries of the property as well as all the natural and man-made features. The map will be a valuable decision making tool for the recreational development of the park.

The park provided a unique

opportunity for the students to practice their skills on a real-life project with definite goals and a purpose. Students also received an opportunity to discuss the master plan

process with the Department planner.

The students accomplished the mapping of 2,187 acres of property in just two days.





*Caldron Falls Reservoir
Governor Tommy G. Thompson
Centennial State Park*



Next Step...

So, where do we go from here? We will soon be announcing the exact dates of our next public meetings. These will be held in mid-July, and will focus on presenting the new Peshtigo River State Forest to all of you. DNR experts will be there to give you information and answer questions in their field of expertise. Maps of the property and initial resource information will also be

available. We will ask people to sign in at the door if they want to be added to the mailing list for newsletters, progress reports and meeting notices. Attendees will have a chance to express their ideas for the future management and uses of the Peshtigo River State Forest. This will give us a basis for coordinating the master planning for both the Peshtigo River State

Forest and Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park. We will send you a notice prior to the meeting in July explaining when and where the meetings will occur. If you have questions in the mean time, please stop in or call the DNR Peshtigo Service Center. The address and phone number are shown on page one of this newsletter.

Property Managers to be Hired Soon

Property managers for Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest will be responsible for daily operation, and will fill a vital role in the initial planning and developing facilities and resources at the new properties.

We're looking for experienced property managers, willing to transfer laterally into these challenging new positions. When we have a list of candidates compiled, we will conduct interviews and fill the positions. We expect to hire these new managers within the next

few weeks and we will notify you when this is done. We are also actively seeking assistant manage candidates, primarily for Peshtigo River State Forest. In the future, we hope to hire a State Park Naturalist, too. Experienced managers and staff will be a great asset.



*Rocky Gorge on the Peshtigo
River Below Caldron Falls*

Gypsy Moths Found in Area

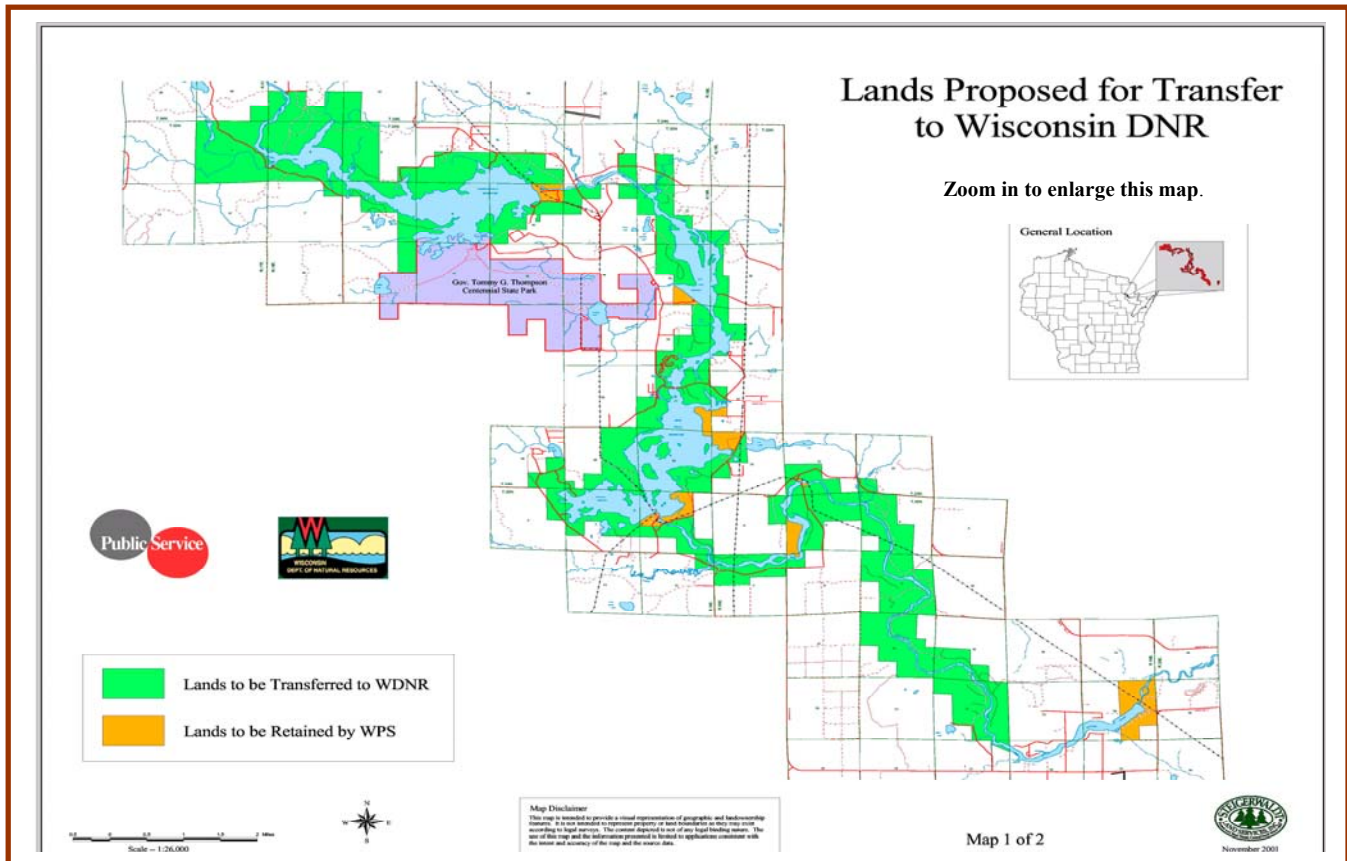
First found in widespread areas of eastern Wisconsin in 1988, the Gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) continues to spread across the state. Our forests are full of the Gypsy moth's favorite trees such as oak, aspen, white birch, and basswood. Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest are no exceptions. However, there are many steps communities and forest managers can take to prevent outbreaks and minimize damage to the forest. To control high populations of Gypsy moths,

management tactics including physical and biological controls, silvicultural manipulation, and insecticide applications are used.

Spraying will not eliminate Gypsy moth from an area, but it can be an effective means of preventing defoliation and protecting our scenic forests and residential trees.

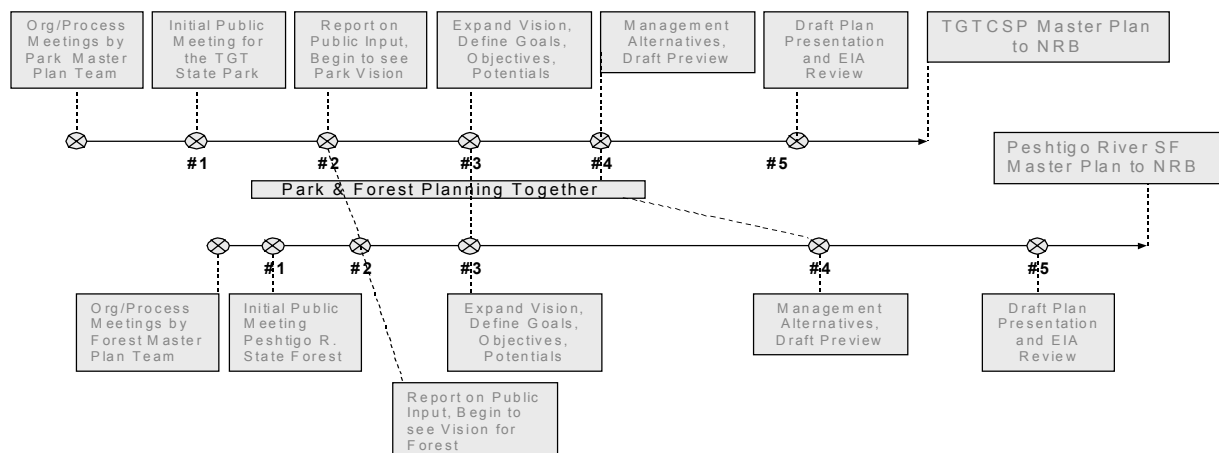
The Department of Natural Resources was unable to include the State Forest in its 2002 aerial spraying program since the property

was acquired after the program deadline, and there was no practical way to have the property sprayed. However, we expect to fund spray programs in 2003 for both Peshtigo River State Forest and for Gov. Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park, since the park will also likely have defoliation within one or two years. Unfortunately, the Gypsy moth is here to stay. We'll certainly lose leaves and trees, but with research, constant vigilance, and a citizenry prepared for battle, we can minimize the damages.



Coordinated Master Planning Timeline

Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park
 Peshtigo River State Forest



We listened to the public's preference for coordinated master planning of the Park and the State Forest. This revised timeline shows where the Park and the Forest planning will be done together.



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*To protect, enhance,
and preserve our
natural resources.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dnr.state.wi.us

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Year of the Trails Celebration

This year, Wisconsin is celebrating the wonderful trails we have throughout the state. This includes a wide variety of special events sponsored by State Parks, Friends Groups, County and Local Recreation Departments. Events include organized horse

rides, candlelight walks, trail challenges, clean-up days, canoe trail excursions, and much more.

So come celebrate Wisconsin's extensive, nationally recognized trail system! We encourage all Wisconsin citizens and visitors to join in the trail fun. Celebrate the many

economic, environmental, health, transportation and community building benefits that trails provide. Check out all of the trail activities at our website:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/lands/parks/trails/yotevents For more information about the Year of the Trails, ask [Shawn Schmidt](#), Year of the Trails Coordinator, (608) 264-8957.

Additional Information...

Although our next meeting, focusing on the introduction to the Peshtigo River State Forest, will be held in mid-July, Wisconsin Public Service hosted their own informational meeting on the forest lands on May 1st, 2002 at the Town of Stephenson. This meeting helped WPS

comply with the rules surrounding the removal of lands from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) certification. Wisconsin DNR staff were also present to answer some questions and provide a brief summary of our project. We encourage your participation

in any and all public meetings. Read the newsletter and feel free to pass them on to friends, and contact us with comments. As always, we want maximum communication. So, please encourage others to get on our mailing list and to make their ideas known.

About Master Planning with the WDNR...

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Strategic Plan calls for encouraging public involvement and providing for outdoor recreation. We accomplish these goals in a variety of ways, but one of the best ways is through the integrated efforts of internal and external partners in the master planning process.



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